

## THE PERILS OF PROHIBITION

Evils Which Follow in the Train of Sumptuary Legislation.

A LAMENTABLE SHOWING IN LITTLE RHODE ISLAND.

Report of the proceedings at the tenth annual meeting of the Charity organization society of the city of Newport, R. I.:

A difficulty encountered by our visitors with increasing frequency during the past two years, and one likely to become greater, is the sale of liquor in dwelling houses. Our policy has been, where the fact is well-ascertained, to bring it at once to the attention of the person visited and to cease visiting unless a promise is given to immediately stop the objectionable and unlawful practice. Of course we endeavor to see that the promise is kept. There are cases, however, where the promise is not kept, and the unsatisfactory and well-founded suspicions that our officers prevail, but where, Nevertheless, the evidence is not sufficiently clear to justify the termination of our oversight and care. The gravity of the situation in this regard may be apparent, some facts of a general nature may be stated.

During the efficient administration of the office of the mayor for the past three years in this city, the sale of liquor has practically been driven from our public streets. It may fairly be said that there are no open saloons

of liquor are brought here and sold is unquestioned. By accounts officially kept, it appears that the importation of liquor has largely increased during the past eighteen months; that by the old "colony" steamship companies it has increased during the same season, from forty to two hundred barrels a keg, chiefly of malt liquors, arrived here daily. During the nine months of 1888, from February to October inclusive, there were nineteen 127 searches for and seizure of quantities of liquor in the city, of which were alleged to be sold. Eighty-one of these were in dwelling houses kept by fifty different persons. This shows that there were ninety-four searches in the city, of which were forty-six searches were in stores and small shops kept by seventy-one different persons, many of which places were immediately adjacent to the city, and in the dwelling houses. Eleven of these seventy-one persons were women. The reports of police officers has it that there are many persons whom duty calls to visit such localities, so that these places which have been raided, do not constitute a majority of those where liquor is sold. Many of these persons are known to believe that there are streets where liquor has been sold during the past year in near as many places as there are streets in the city. NEVER sold before, and though there are

are easily led into it. A friend and neighbor has perhaps started in upon the business, he doubts not, many of his friends will follow. The general terms of the wholesale dealer who is reported to put in the largest business in the city are, "I have no choice." The example is contagious; here appears to be an opportunity to make a little money in the household where spare pennies are not overabundant. The temptation is so strong that enough to resist the temptation; such examples exist against the wretched business so by the board, and soon, perhaps, the man joins in the ranks of the "boarders." The temptation to a greater or less extent in this misadventure, and if it is thus easy for a man to get into the business, how much easier is it for those upon whom the burden of extreme poverty bears heavily. If I do not sell liquor, I get into the business, and have heard more than once the past year.

In this city in many homes liquor is sold by women in the presence of their drunken husbands. The same kind of practices not only upon themselves, but upon their children, of the future evils to none of us less so, and the prevalence of evasion and breaking of law, of the probabilities of these young people becoming future drunkards, of the vulgarizing and degrading influence upon the young of the prevalent version of a mother's kitchen into a bar room.

Dr. Birney, nose and throat, Bre bid.

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